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2 January 1959

Honorable Walter H. Judd  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Judd:

In Mr. Dulles' absence I am responding to your letter of December 29, 1958 concerning the agreement between Northwest Airlines, Inc. and Thai Airways, Ltd. which is now before the Civil Aeronautics Board for approval. You are correct in your understanding that we have not furnished the Civil Aeronautics Board with a statement regarding this particular agreement. I shall try to make clear our precise position in this regard.

As the intelligence arm of the Executive Branch, it is our responsibility to furnish the intelligence required for policy determinations but not ourselves to make such determinations or participate in such policy matters otherwise than as the intelligence adviser. The foreign intelligence applicable to such a situation as the Northwest Airlines - Thai Airways proposal is furnished the Civil Aeronautics Board, Department of State, Department of Defense, and any other interested agencies. In our intelligence support, it has been our consistent position that if American airlines are not allowed to participate appropriately with foreign airlines which need help, such help will be provided by the airlines of other major powers. It has further been our position that proper participation by American airlines is definitely in the national interest, and if a vacuum is left into which airlines of foreign powers can step the results are inimical to the national interest.

We have neither the jurisdiction nor the competence to comment on the technical aspects of any one proposal nor to take a position as between one American carrier and another. If, therefore, the Civil Aeronautics Board in the light of all available information were to give an adverse ruling on the ground that an agreement submitted was improper under their controlling principles, we would not be in a

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position to take issue with them. We do not propose, therefore, to submit any specific statement to the Civil Aeronautics Board, but we will continue to support the fundamental proposition of participation by American carriers in foreign air activities and are working in close coordination with the other interested agencies in this regard.

If you would like to discuss this matter in further detail, I should be very glad to come to see you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

s/ Lawrence R. Houston  
Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

cc: DDCI  
DD/S

DDS-CM-J  
Legislative Counsel

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